

OKINAWA MARINE

JULY 31, 2009

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Foster hosts blood drive

Lance Cpl. Monty Burton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The Armed Services Blood Bank Center and American Red Cross hosted a blood drive open to all Status of Forces Agreement personnel on Okinawa July 22 at the Red Cross office here.

The blood collected during the drive will be used for service members and their families at military bases all over the world, according to Chuck Miller, the field office coordinator of the Camp Foster Red Cross.

Trisha Campbell, a customer service representative at Community Bank and donor, said she was excited about giving blood to those who need it.

"Although I don't like needles, I am extremely excited to donate because I know that people need it," Campbell said.

With the conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq, blood donations are constantly needed to sustain the blood supply required to help service members injured in the line of duty.

The Okinawa ASBBC is the main blood source for U.S. Pacific Commands' 18 medical treatment facilities.

Petty Officer 2nd Class

SEE **BLOOD** PG 3



Australian Army soldiers from 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment take cover during the Battle of Sam Hill, a mock security and stabilization raid conducted during Exercise Talisman Saber 2009. TS '09 is a biennial combined training activity designed to train Australian and U.S. forces in planning and conducting combined task force operations which help improve combat readiness and interoperability. Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Freeman

3rd RAR, 31st MEU take the hill

Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bianco

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

SAM HILL, SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA, Australia — As the sun began to set over the horizon, 3rd Royal Australian Regiment, supporting the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, made their way through thick brush to a small

village where they would secure the village from hostile forces during the Battle of Sam Hill, July 17.

Umpires from the Australian Army were on site to observe and referee the engagement.

According to Maj. Glenn Jones, executive officer for the coalition force umpires, the mission of 3rd RAR during the battle was to ulti-

mately create a good environment with healthy relations between the residents of the village and themselves so their counterparts from the 31st MEU could move in and occupy the location with little or no resistance. It was a task easier said than done as the Australian Defence Force soldiers

SEE **SAM HILL** PG 3

Japanese Officer Candidates gain knowledge of inner-workings of USMC

Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, hosted 380 officer candidates from the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's Officer Candidate School, during a Japanese Officer Exchange

Program at the Camp Hansen theater, July 23.

"The Japanese officer exchange program provides opportunities for Marine Corps personnel and members of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force to observe equipment used by their counterparts and to increase a mutual understanding," said Maj. Walker Field, commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines.

During the initial briefing, Capt. Michael Chankij, operations officer, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, explained key parts of their unit and the Marine Corps as an organization, including the operational mission, command relationships, areas of responsibility, and exercises and training opportunities.

SEE **JOEP** PG 3

INSIDE



SRT keeps skills keen

Constant training on the part of the Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team heats up in the Okinawa sun.

PG 6

RTAF, III MEF Bands play tunes

Playing alongside the Royal Thai Air Force, III MEF Band pulled out all of the stops for their youth performance in Thailand.

PG 5



If you were inspected by yesterday's Marine, would they approve of what you wear?

Cpl. Rebekka S. Heite

Marines are considered an elite military organization by many.

We are the few and the proud. We work hard, and play even harder.

That was the vision I had of a Marine before I joined the Marine Corps and all throughout recruit training.

I thought I was joining an elite group and in many respects I still believe I have.

However, during my four years, I have noticed a downhill trend in compliance with Marine Corps regulations in regards to civilian attire.

Going through boot camp, my platoon was told that even our civilian clothing should be on-par with our service uniforms.

True Marines don't wear tank tops or short shorts, according to my drill instructors.

Yet, at the PX and Commissary, I see female Marines wearing both and even more questionable attire.

It's not only the female Marines shrugging

off civilian attire standards.

I don't care to see what type of boxers guys are wearing or not wearing because your pants are below your waistline.

I don't expect you to wear shirt-stays in civilian attire or even to tuck in every shirt, but if we expect female Marines to cover themselves, I think male Marines can do the same.

As Marines we need to adhere to Marine Administrative Messages that maintain the proper standards for civilian attire.

Why else would the Commandant of the Marine Corps send out a message making the wearing our service utilities, out-in-town, against regulations except in cases of emergency, if not to separate us from the rest?

Apparently, Marines seem to think Marine Corps Orders are just suggestions, because I see Marines everyday dropping off and picking up their child(ren) at an out-in-town daycare in their service utilities. When MCO P1020.34G specifically states, "enroute stops while off base are not authorized except in bonafide emergencies,"

while in service utilities.

More often than not, they aren't even wearing their covers as they walk to and from the building to their car.

Marine Corps orders and regulations set the standard that defines us as Marines.

If we are going to consider ourselves an elite group, we need to start holding ourselves to these higher standards.

Yes, it is hot in Japan, but do a few missing inches of fabric make it that much cooler?

Yes, it is a pain to get up and get dressed in civilian attire to drop off your child(ren) at daycare only to change into your uniform once you get to work.

And while, the other services are allowed to go out-in-town in their utilities, we are Marines.

We need to get back to adhering to Marine Corps standards.

If you were inspected by Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler, would he be able to find you guilty of being out of clothing regulations?

Heite is a combat correspondent with the Okinawa Marine Newspaper.



FACT CHECK

RED CARD RESTRICTIONS ON MAINLAND?

Q:

I'm going to Tokyo on leave next week. Do my red card restrictions apply while I'm gone?

A:

Yes, according to the MCBJ/III MEF Order 1050.7, the Liberty Campaign Order, local leave on Okinawa and in mainland Japan does not dismiss the requirements to the rules of the red and gold liberty cards. Red card holders on leave and in possession of valid leave paper may be off-base without a liberty buddy and are not required to check-in, but must be in a hotel or private residence between midnight and 5 a.m.

Sempertoons

Created by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

SemperToon Fact 001:

Before going to sleep every night, the "BOOGIE MAN", makes his mom check the closet for U.S. Marines.



TO SUBMIT AN OPINION OR EDITORIAL, E-MAIL US AT OKINAWAMARINE.MCBB.FCT@USMC.MIL

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The Okinawa Marine is published by Marine Corps Community Services under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the Consolidated Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

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OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER

H&S Battalion MCB PAO
Unit 35002
FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster
DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4054

SAM HILL FROM PG 1

encountered resistance almost immediately after insertion.

The 3rd RAR soldiers began their assault by surrounding the village to ensure everyone within the town was contained. During the mock battle that followed, simulated ammunition provided both sides with a realistic training environment.

The Australians fired F-88 Australian Steyr rifles filled with blank 5.56mm rounds, while the role-playing villagers returned fire with M-16A4 service rifles and M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons.

In order to mediate the battle, umpires dictated who was considered wounded or a casualty when fire fights commenced.

"As umpires we assess the damages and casualties the battle brings," Jones said. "We review real battle statistics and base our results on the averages of those statistics."

Jones said one of the initial and key missions of 3rd RAR during this scenario was to decipher the difference between the armed combatants, armed civilians and policemen populating the village.

Major Phil Cooper, an umpire from Forces Command added, "Once the unit separates the different groups, they can become allies with the policing authority of the town to ensure safety of the town's people."

After securing the area, 3rd RAR and the MEU's task changed and became one of humanitarian assistance.

Another element of realism was added with the thorough preparation of role players portraying each of these groups.

"Our staff noncommissioned officers have worked with these types of people during combat and have gotten to know some general characteristics," said Pfc. Anthony Ham from the U.S. Army's 160th division who acted as a villager

for the battle. "With our staff NCOs' help, we were able to serve as good mock villagers for the Australians and the MEU."

According to Cpl. Christian Yllingwith, a communications specialist from 3rd RAR, U.S. service members acted as great towns people and gave the Australian forces the opportunity to learn from their actions.

"Everyone did a great job and helped everything go accordingly," Yllingwith said. "Training always goes better when you have people you can work well with and U.S. service members were excellent counterparts for this."

The Battle of Sam Hill was a part of the MEU's participation in Exercise Talisman Saber 2009.

Talisman Saber '09 is a biennial combined training activity designed to train Australian and U.S. forces in planning and conducting combined task force operations, which help improve combined readiness and interoperability.

JOEP FROM PG 1

"Most of the Japanese officer candidates have had no prior chance to observe U.S. Marines or visit U.S. Marine Corps camps," said Lt. Col. Yuichi Hara, an English instructor at the Japanese Officer Candidate School.

Hara added that conducting the JOEP is the first step for new officers in building international relations and gaining a better understanding.

"A strong military relationship between our militaries is very important for the security and prosperity of our countries," said Maj. Gen. Goro Matsumura, commandant, JGSDF Officer Candidate School.

Matsumura also highlighted the importance of making the relationship strong even at the smallest level.

"We have a duty not just to strengthen relations between our two militaries, but to learn from one another's differences," he said.

After the officer candidates learned about some of the operational capabilities and inner workings of the Marine Corps, the Marines and their counterparts set off to "Gun Park," a name affectionately given to the place, where 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, set up a static display for the officer candidates to get a first-hand feel of the weaponry.

Two different models of 155-mm Howitzers, the M-198 and the M777, a humvee and a seven-ton truck, along with other equipment, were displayed for the officer candidates.

At each display Marines explained the specifics and practical application of each piece of equipment.

Lance Cpl. Ivan Conaway, armory chief, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, helped familiarize the candidates with the MK-19 grenade launcher, M2 .50 caliber machine gun, and the M-240G medium machine gun during his presentation to the officer hopefuls.

"They were curious and very enthusiastic to see how our crew-served weapons worked and I was just as enthusiastic about explaining it to them," he said, adding that he would like to interact with the JGSDF officer candidates again in the near future.

During the JGSDF Officer Candidate School, officer candidates visit different Marine Corps camps, about 20 times a year, to participate in similar exchanges with different units.

The opportunity for young officer candidates to experience a different military culture is important said Matsumura, "Above all the U.S. is Japan's most important ally, which makes it important to understand each other the best we can."



Gunnery Sergeant Dwayne Baters, the Battery Gunnery Sergeant for Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, demonstrates to Japanese officer candidates with the Japan Ground Self Defense Force how to load a 155-mm, High Explosive round, into a Marine Corps M777 Howitzer. Photo by Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt



Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Garcia, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Dental Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, donates blood July 22 at the Camp Foster American Red Cross office. Photo by Lance Cpl. Monty Burton

BLOOD FROM PG 1

Michael Garcia, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Dental Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, said donating blood is nothing new to him.

"I donate every chance I get and I have been doing so since I joined the Navy," said Garcia, a Tulsa, Okla., native. "Being in the military with constant deployments may make it challenging to donate as much as I want to, but every time I am eligible I give."

Garcia, who is also the education and training chief within his unit, said he encourages his junior sailors to give blood as well.

"I always ensure the junior sailors know about events like this so they have the op-

portunity to come out here and make a difference," he said. "If I'm not out here giving blood, then there's no way I can expect them to want to come give blood."

Miller said that although the American Red Cross does not sponsor the actual blood drives overseas, they assist the ASBBC in any way possible.

"We provide them with support such as the use of our facilities and the equipment they may need," Miller said. "We enjoy helping the ASBBC and hope to continue this on Okinawa for years to come."

If you are interested in donating blood or want more information, please contact the Armed Services Blood Bank Center at 643-7737.

BRIEFS**WALK-IN SCHOOL SPORTS PHYSICALS OFFERED**

U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, will offer walk-in school and sports physicals at the Family Medicine Clinic on Camp Lester Aug. 8 and 15 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The hospital provides the walk-in physicals as a convenient way for parents to prepare students and youth sports participants for the upcoming school year, and it is open to any school aged child or teen in Okinawa eligible for care at military health care facilities.

Students need to bring their shot records and sports forms, wear athletic gear (shorts, t-shirts or tank top, and athletic shoes) and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For more information, contact the Lester Family Medicine Clinic at 643-7517.

KADENA GAS STATION CLOSURES

The scheduled dates for Kadena Air Base gas station closures are:

- Currently - Aug. 15: Kadena main gas station will remain open with half of the mid grade pumps operational.
- Aug. 3 - 24: Kadena main gas station diesel will be closed.
- Aug. 24 - Sept. 19: Kadena Fairchild gas station will be closed.

Diesel will not be available from Aug. 3 - 24 on Kadena.

Customers needing diesel fuel can find it at the AAFES gas stations located on Camps Foster, Kinser, Courtney and Schwab.

DRMO INVENTORY CHANGES DAILY

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office disposes of excess property received from the military services. The inventory changes daily with thousands of items including: household/office furniture, vehicles and parts, clothing, computers and more. When the Department of Defense declares items excess to their needs, they are turned in to DRMO.

Property is first offered for reutilization within the DoD at no cost. The Reutilization, Transfer and Donation program provides huge savings by avoiding new DoD procurement costs and repairs. The DRMO Okinawa is located on Camp Kinser, Bldg 600. Valid ID card holders may screen property Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 637-2460/3717 or visit our Web site at www.drms.dla.mil.

REGISTRATION FOR EWS AND CSC 2010

Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College academic year 2010 Distance Education Programs commence Oct. 1. To enroll, contact the College of Continuing Education at 645-2230 or email Jim Hopkins, regional coordinator, or Brenda Burke, administrative assistant, at jhopkins@cots.com or bburke@cots.com.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mccb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon every Friday. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

**Senior military official visits Schwab**

CAMP SCHWAB — General James E. Cartwright, left, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Brig. Gen. John A. Toolan, right, Deputy Commander, Headquarters United States Forces Japan, receive a brief from Lt. Col. Robert R. Piatt, center, Futenma Relocation Facility Project Management Officer, atop the Rappel Tower here, July 22. Cartwright visited Okinawa to discuss the U.S. Marine Corps' realignment initiatives. Photo by Sgt. Christine M. Wilcox

Camp Kinser mess hall re-opens with new look, morale-friendly environment

Lance Cpl. Antwain J. Graham

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — It was his birthday and Lance Cpl. Jack Giordano, an operations clerk with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, was hungry.

All he really wanted was a hot meal.

On July 1, hearing that the Camp Kinser mess hall had re-opened, Giordano rushed to the front doors of the newly renovated dining facility where he was the first customer on its opening day.

"I was amazed at the changes I saw when I first arrived and even happier getting to be the first one through the door," Giordano said.

"I was so proud I wrote 'first one' next to where I signed my meal card number," Giordano said.

The mess hall initially re-opened its doors on the first and then celebrated its grand opening on July 16 during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

After the ribbon cutting, the mess hall opened up early for all base personnel and master labor contractors on Kinser.

In May 2008, the mess hall closed down for its renovation.

"The environment wasn't very comfortable to cook in and we needed a lot of new cooking equipment," said Lance Cpl. Gabrielle Urias, a food service specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group.

Until now, Marines here were temporarily served food at the Shaka Café, a dining facility located across from the shoppette here.

"Often Marines would opt to eat at commercial establishments so the mess hall was losing customers for a while," said Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth Bouknight, food service operations chief, for Marine Corps dining facilities on Okinawa.

Now, with an all new interior and warmer environment, the Kinser mess hall is gaining back their previously lost customers.

Since its resurrection, the mess hall has served more than 10,000 meals.

Some of the updates in the mess hall include using plates, as opposed to the sectional plastic lunch trays that were used previously.

Flat-screen televisions are also posted throughout the building for the customer's viewing entertainment.

The facility was also widened to seat more people.

Urias said the chow hall had a 25% increase in dining personnel since its re-opening.

Not only has the mess hall been remodeled, but so has the drive of the Marines and MLCs working there.

"Seeing the new completed facility really boosted the staff's motivation," Bouknight said.

"Their morale took a 180-degree turn around from the second they walked through the doors," Bouknight said.

The Camp Kinser mess hall's rebirth has spawned an environment where the customer can sit down, eat and feel at home.

"The change is almost like a promotion for the Marines who work here and the ones who dine here," Urias said.

RTAF, III MEF bands perform for youth

Lance Cpl. Antwain J. Graham

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

BANGKOK, Thailand – More than 2,000 Thai children cheered and danced as the Royal Thai Air Force band and the III Marine Expeditionary Force band performed together during a live concert at Bumrung Rawiwon Wittaya Elementary and Middle school, here recently.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Forest Brown, the III MEF band officer, the performance was part of a cultural community relations event that allowed the band members to work together and strengthen the brotherhood and bond between the Thai and American people.

The excitement began early as the band made their way to the stage and audience began their ovations.

The students were like fans at a rock concert as the musicians reached out to slap the sailing hands of their spectators.

For three hours, the audience jammed to the funky rifts of popular 70's tunes such as "Brick House" and "Soul Man." A few of the Marines took their performance off the stage to interact with the children, singing along to the music and hyping up the crowd. The band commanded the crowd's attention and kept them cheering with their performance.

"The response was better than I expected," said Cpl. Bradley Schwartz, a trumpet player and the lead singer during the band's performance. "You could tell the children really enjoyed it because they were very interactive

with us and sometimes they were cheering louder than the music."

The music caught the attention of local passers by who couldn't resist catching a glimpse of the excitement. Soon they too were clapping their hands and getting into the groove.

After the musical performance, the school staff showered the Marines with cultural gifts and performed traditional dances in their honor.

When the show was over, children were lined up on the side of the stage to shake the hands of the Marines and get their autographs.

"I never thought I would be signing autographs," said Cpl. Ada Ingram, a French horn player, smiling. "It made me feel pretty cool and reminded me why I joined the Marine Corps in the first place; to make a difference in other people's lives."

Prior to the show, Ingram overheard members of the school faculty saying the students had been waiting to see the III MEF band perform for some time, Ingram added.

"The students have seen the Marines on television and were very excited to find out they were coming to perform here with our Air Force," said Chanida Lanburi, the school's principal. "We greatly appreciate their visit and they are heroes to our community, especially our children."

The rock show generated instant popularity among the students and the faculty.

"They are always welcome to come back and we hope they do," Lanburi said.



Children from Bumrung Rawiwon Wittaya Elementary and Middle School, Bangkok, Thailand, interact with the Royal Thai Air Force band during their performance with the III Marine Expeditionary Force band during the III MEF band's visit to Thailand. Photo by Lance Cpl. Antwain J. Graham



More than 300 friends and Marines gathered in the ball room of The Palms club on Camp Hansen July 24, for the memorial service of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ricky Richardson Jr., Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, a 33-year-old from Bethesda, Md. Richardson was killed in action June 10 while responding to an improvised explosive device call in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Farah province, Afghanistan. Photo by Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost

Ceremony to say goodbye

Lance Cpl. Thomas W. Provost

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN– More than 300 friends and Marines gathered in the ballroom of The Palms all ranks club on Camp Hansen July 24, for the memorial service of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ricky Richardson Jr., explosive ordnance disposal technician, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Richardson was killed in action June 10 while responding to an improvised explosive device call in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Farah province, Afghanistan.

The 33-year-old from Bethesda, Md., was attached as an individual augment to 8th ESB, 2nd Marine Expeditionary

Brigade, II MEF.

"Today we are paying tribute and saying goodbye to a leader," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael C. Sharp, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, EOD, 9th ESB. "He was a big, strong guy who took care of his Marines and just a great leader all together. We are going to miss him."

The ballroom was packed. Every chair was occupied and Marines were standing in rows to the back of the room. All in attendance paid their respects to a fallen brother.

"He was like a big brother to us," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Fulling, an EOD technician with EOD, 9th ESB. "He was always messing with you and making you laugh."

Richardson is survived by his wife Jennifer and son Cole.



Corporal Michael R. Osborne, Cpl. Andrew J. DeYager and Lance Cpl. Christopher M. Stiner, members of the Special Reaction Team, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, provide outer security while other members breach the building.

Ready in an instant

Provost Marshal's SRT trains for every type of situation

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Abigail M. Wharton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER – A group of Marines in a single file moved slowly down a dark hallway. They moved as one body, yelling commands and executing room clearings as they took control of the building.

Every member on the team rotates to take the point, or front, at some time during the mission. Each knows he might be the one to take a hit for the team, but the team is so close-knit, he would do it.

The group is the Camp Foster Special Reaction Team, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Currently the only SRT on Okinawa, they are always on call.

The SRT has not been activated in the last several years, but they train with an intensity that keeps them ready for any situation in an instant.

They are designed to give an installation commander the ability to contain or counter a situation that goes beyond the Provost Marshal's Office's capabilities.

To do this, the SRT must be able to isolate a crisis scene, provide proficient marksmanship support, conduct tactical movement, building entry, and clear buildings in a variety of lighting and weather conditions.

In order to be part of the SRT, the Marine must be a member of PMO and must participate in an "indoctrination" to test their mental and physical strength.

An indoctrination can last anywhere from 36 hours to 2 weeks and consists of long distance runs in full SRT gear, several obstacle courses and mul-

tiple classes on subjects like close quarter combat, hostage rescue and sniper tactics.

"It was the hardest thing I had done mentally and physically until that point in my life," said Cpl. Michael R. Osborne, assistant team leader, Special Reaction Team.

Applicants have to be determined and self-motivated to make it through the test.

"It was rough and I thought it would never end," said Lance Cpl. Trey James, Special Reaction Team member. "We had a lot of drive and motivation to keep going."

After the indoctrination, selectees are put on a six-month probation. Once they pass, they are sent to a secondary military occupation specialty school.

The SRT is comprised of an entry team, an assault team and a sniper team organized under one team leader and assistant team leader.

The teams are separate, but they all work together and cross-train to fill in for each other if necessary.

Additionally their training incorporates using dynamic (use voice commands) room clearing, deliberate (no sound) room clearing, night vision goggle room clearing, sniper ranges and live-fire training.

"SRT is an awesome opportunity to train Marines," Osborne said. "We can do anything from sniper school to vessel assault school."

The training never stops for the SRT. As one of three lance corporals on the team, James said it's a great experience to be able to learn from so many noncommissioned officers every day.

"We train hard and play hard," said Osborne. "It's a tightly-knit team with good camaraderie."



Sergeant Wesley D. Wallace, Special Reaction Team





Special Reaction Team, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, covers the rear of the team during a room clearing exercise.



ABOVE: Corporal Jorge A. Velez and Lance Cpl. Trey S. James, members of the sniper team, Special Reaction Team, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, provide coverage for the rest of the team during a building clearing exercise. After the sniper team is in position the rest of the team will rush the building to begin clearing it.

LEFT: Corporal Michael R. Osborne, Cpl. Matthew D. Hanson and Lance Cpl. Madison Kubat, burst through a door during a dynamic room clearing exercise. They will get into a formation before continuing to clear the building.

MTACS-18 Marines invade Combat Town



Sergeant Alfonso Arroyo, a small arms repairer and technician with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, lays down suppressive fire so Marines in his fire team can advance on the church at Combat Town, July 7.

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. J Nava

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Hands trembling slightly from the adrenaline pumping through his veins, the fire team leader issued quiet commands to his men to assault the enemy's final stronghold.

The hostiles barricaded themselves in the church and had no plans of coming out without a fight.

Letting loose a volley of suppressive fire on the building, the Marines made their way toward its entrance, not knowing what dangers lay behind the church walls.

From room to room and house to house the Marines of Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, fought their way through the streets and alleys of Combat Town, July 7.

"This training was conducted to familiarize the Marines with urban warfare tactics, techniques and procedures," said Capt. John Franklin, tactical air command center officer, MTACS-18. "We also wanted to help them maintain a strong warrior ethos and keep their minds and reflexes sharp, ready for any deployment."

The Marines' patrol began like any other, on a hot and humid day laden with its share of bugs.

There was an eerie, almost artificial calm in Combat Town as the Marines passed through, when suddenly the calm was broken by nine millimeter paint rounds zipping by their heads.

"As soon as the first round went off, I knew it was on," said Cpl. Julio Etienne, a supply administration and operations clerk with MTACS-18 and a native of Cap Haitien, Haiti.



Corporal Timothy Banks an air control electronics operator with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, drags Sgt. Michael Black an air support operations operator with MTACS-18 to a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter in order to be evacuated, July 7.

The Marines' training kicked in immediately as they began clearing houses one at a time, bobbing and weaving carefully in intricate patterns through the dark and dusty rooms of every building.

Combat Town was infested with its simulated hostiles. It seemed as if at every corner they turned there were enemies waiting for them to slip up.

The battle raged on until its final cul-

mination in the form of a showdown at the church. The enemy, unwilling to surrender and unrelenting in their efforts, would not make it easy.

As soon as the Marines entered the church, enemy fire began ringing out from every corner.

Moving closely along a wall, the Marines took cover and returned fire. Carefully placed paint rounds splattered on the enemies' visors rendering them "dead."

"When we entered, there was fire coming from all four corners," said Lance Cpl. Opetiaia Sitafine, a supply administration and operations clerk with MTACS-18. "It was a little frightening at first but then I got a rush of adrenaline and started to let the paint fly."

The ground level was clear, but enemy forces still remained on the upper floors.

The Marines made their way up the spiral staircase, moving slowly and carefully so as to avoid any pipe bombs or trip mines.

The Marines advanced from the staircase and began to let their paint rounds fly. The enemy dropped left and right until all threats were eliminated.

With Combat Town clear of hostile activity, only one thing remained, to evacuate the casualties from the area.

The injured were rounded up and transported to landing zone Dodo where a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter was called in to take them to safety.

Although this was only a training event for the MTACS-18 Marines, the real combat training value was not lost.

"Training like this helps us feel better equipped and experienced for deployments," said Sitafine, of American Samoa. "It makes me feel more confident in my abilities."



Sergeant Kristopher J. Battles, 41, one of only two combat artists in the Marine Corps, paints an image of a battalion aid station in Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 17. Battles, is a reservist, mobilized to active duty, who works for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va.

Combat artist paints images of war for future posterity

Story and photos by Sgt. Scott Whittington

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 3

Geared up with his wood and leather stool and an array of brushes and paints, one Marine makes the mundane extraordinary.

Sergeant Kristopher J. Battles, 41, one of only two combat artists in the Marine Corps, works for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. He is a reservist mobilized to active duty on the front lines of the War on Terrorism, at the Forward Operat-

ing Base Delhi, Helmand province, Afghanistan. He paints pictures of daily life under the threat and presence of enemy fire.

"He's a renaissance Marine," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Fay, combat artist, National Museum of the Marine Corps. "He seems mild mannered, but he can shoot an expert pistol and rifle."

Battles, a Hermann, Mo., native, joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1986, worked as a computer operator for Headquarters Company, 24th Marine

Regiment, 4th Marine Division, in Kansas City, Mo., and eventually worked for the Public Affairs Office there. At the time, the combat art section fell under the hierarchy of public affairs, so he slowly made the switch from writing to painting.

Even before becoming a Marine, Battles had a great ability to record the world around him on paper. From the time he was 5 years old, he loved being able to create art.

"While other kids were shooting hoops, I was doodling," said the 1991

Northeast Missouri State University graduate.

Battles left the reserves in 1996 and spent the next 10 years living as a "starving artist," as he puts it. He also made a missionary trip to Haiti from 1999 to 2001.

"I worked various and sundry odd jobs to pay the bills, but I always focused on my art," said Battles, also a former bank teller.

But, the Corps was never far from his mind.

Surfing the Internet one day, Battles saw Fay's blog, which displays Marine artwork, and decided it was time to come back. He sent Fay a link to his own blog and asked if he'd take a look.

"People send me pictures all the time. The majority are somewhat disappointing," said Fay. "But when I saw Sgt. Battles' work, I was blown away. When we found a world-class artist, we wanted to bring him aboard."

"I wanted to publish my work and serve my country. It was a win-win for me," Battles said. "I waited for my ship to come in, and I got on-board."

Combat artists have been in the Marine Corps unofficially since World War I and most of them were officers. In 1942, the

Marine Corps offered enlisted Marines a chance to depict life at war, a unique stance from the other services. Marine artwork by Marines has since been seen in magazines, newspapers and galleries all over the world.

Today, Battles continues that legacy, and his works can be seen in galleries and published in *Leatherneck* magazine.

"He has an amazing ability to capture the moment," said Fay. "The Marine Corps never dies. It's the imagery that keeps us alive."

After nearly 60 days here with the Marines of the Regimental Combat Team 3, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Battles will soon be traveling back to Quantico. He expects to have completed, museum-quality paintings and sculptures based on his sketches and observations ready for display in the National Museum of the Marine Corps some time next year.

A record of modern-day Marine life depicted on canvas or cast in bronze may be seen by millions of visitors for years to come, all from the works of this one Marine.



Sergeant Kristopher J. Battles, a combat artist, compares his rendition of a battalion aid station in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, to the actual building, set in front of him, July 17.



From left to right: Corporal Jacob A. Olin, Lance Cpl. Khoa T. Le, Lance Cpl. Anthony R. Hale, Lance Cpl. Benjamin D. Lawson, and Lance Cpl. Alexander J. Hodges, hook up air conditioning units July 16 at Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Utilities Marines adapt, overcome to bring power to RCT-3

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Daniel A. Flynn
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 3

When in a deployed environment such as Afghanistan, one of the most important necessities is electricity.

Life here is no exception to the rule.

The responsibility to facilitate these power requirements falls on eight utilities Marines from Okinawa, Japan, who are now deployed with Regimental Combat Team 3, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

The utilities Marines arrived at Camp Dwyer in mid June, and it took about three weeks to get power up and running for the command operations center, according to Lance Cpl. Anthony R. Hale, an electrician with RCT-3.

While the COC may be their main concern, the utilities Marines also have to provide power for most of the camp to include the sleeping and mess hall tents.

They are responsible for maintaining air conditioning on the camp, as temperatures sometimes reach 120 degrees Fahrenheit



Gunnery Sergeant Victor Marks, Utilities Chief with Regimental Combat Team 3, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force, works on a power cord to help distribute electricity to a breaker box for air conditioning units July 16 at Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

heat during the heat of the day. They also provide the same level of support for all of the Forward Operating Bases throughout the province.

"I like my job, but it is a lot of work," said Hale. "We don't have many Marines to help out and we can always use more gear."

Since there are so few of them with RCT-3, the Marines have been getting a lot of cross training and not just working on

their own specialties.

"We have a pretty significant workload," said Lance Cpl. Alexander J. Hodges, an electrician with RCT-3. "Sleep is limited and the work is never ending."

They also have two Marines on watch throughout the night to make sure that everything continues to function properly, said Hodges.

Even dealing with the seemingly endless amount of work and the long hours, the utilities Marines manage to find time to do Marine Corps Institute tests, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training, physical training and hip-pocket classes.

The Marines show on a daily basis just how much initiative and ingenuity they have by doing the work that would keep 20 Marines busy, said Hodges. This is part of why two of them have received combat meritorious promotions to their present rank.

Even in these conditions, and the work that still needs to be done every morning, the Marines are motivated about helping advance the RCT-3 mission.

According to Lance Cpl. Benjamin D. Lawson, air conditioning technician with RCT-3, the job is rewarding for them because they can see the

progress they are making here, and they understand that their diligent efforts make life a little bit easier for the Marines on the front lines.



Lance Corporal Alexander J. Hodges, an electrician with Regimental Combat Team 3, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force, untangles a 150 pounds power cord from a spool to hook up air conditioning units July 16 at Camp Dwyer, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

IN THEATERS JULY 31 - AUGUST 6

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

FOSTER 645-3465

TODAY Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG), 3 and 6 p.m.; Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Closed

SUNDAY MCCS Body Building Competition

MONDAY Dance Flick (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Drag Me to Hell (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Up (PG), 3 p.m.; Night at the Museum: Battle of The Smithsonian (PG), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY G-Force (PG), 3 and 7 p.m.

KADENA 634-1869

TODAY Up (PG), 6 p.m.; Night at the Museum: Battle of The Smithsonian (PG), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Closed

SUNDAY Closed

MONDAY G-Force (PG), 3 p.m.; Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY G-Force (PG), 3 and 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Night at the Museum: Battle of The Smithsonian (PG), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Up (PG), 3 p.m.; I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA 636-3890

TODAY Closed

SATURDAY Closed

SUNDAY Closed

MONDAY Closed

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY 622-9616

TODAY G-Force (PG), 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Battle for Terra (PG), 2 p.m.; Dance Flick (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Knowing (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Drag Me to Hell (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN 623-4564

TODAY Sunshine Cleaning (R), 6 p.m.; Crank: High Voltage (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Night at the Museum: Battle of The Smithsonian (PG), 6 p.m.; Land of the Lost (PG13), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Up (PG), 2 p.m.; Night at the Museum: Battle of The Smithsonian (PG), 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY Night at the Museum: Battle of The Smithsonian (PG), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Ghost of Girlfriends Past (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Land of the Lost (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB 625-2333

TODAY I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG13), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY Terminator Salvation: The Future Begins (PG13), 5 p.m.

SUNDAY Drag Me to Hell (PG13), 5 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

USO MOVIE NIGHTS

The USO hosts movie nights at the locations below.

For schedules and start times, call:

CAMP SCHWAB 625-3834

MCAS FUTENMA 636-2113

CAMP HANSEN 623-5011

KADENA AIR BASE 632-8781



For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program office at 645-3681.

All bus pick-up points will be at Semper Fit gyms or the Foster Fieldhouse.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

AUGUST 15 • EXPO AND PINEAPPLE PARK TOUR

• The aquarium recreates the waters of Okinawa from the surface to the ocean floor. Come see 8-meter long whale sharks and huge manta rays, the largest of their kind. Next the pineapple park experience begins with a ride through pineapple fields and tropical, botanical gardens in a four-person, automatic pineapple shaped cart. Transportation is provided and there is a \$10 fee to sign up. The bus will depart Camp Kinser at 9 a.m. and Foster at 9:20 a.m. Contact the SMP Office for more information and to sign up.

AUGUST 25 • TUNNEL RATS TOUR (SOUTHERN CAMPS)

• Explore numerous caves that served as bunkers and shelter during World War II and a stop at the Battle of Okinawa Historical Society's museum. Bring money for lunch. Transportation is provided and there is an \$18 fee to attend. The bus will depart from Foster at 7 a.m., MCAS Futenma at 7:30 a.m., and Camp Kinser at 8 a.m. Contact the SMP office for more information and to sign up.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• Volunteers are needed for the Camp Hansen Block Party on August 8 at the Palms from noon to 7 p.m. Transportation is not provided. Contact the SMP office for more information or to sign up.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

- **Catholic:** Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m.; Sat., 5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.
- **Christian Science:** Sun., 11 a.m., Bldg. 442
- **Eastern Orthodox:** Sun., 9:30 a.m.
- **Gospel:** Sun., 11:30 a.m.
- **Hindu:** Sat., 3:30 p.m.
- **Jewish:** Fri., Traditional, 6 p.m.; Informal: 1st, 3rd Fri., 6:30 p.m.
- **Muslim:** Fri., Prayer, 12:45 p.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun., 8:30 a.m.
- **Seventh Day Adventist:** Sat., 10 a.m.

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

- **Catholic:** Sun., 5:30 p.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun., 9 a.m.

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- **Catholic:** Sun., 8 and 11:15 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun., 9:30 a.m.

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- **Catholic:** Sun., 11 a.m.
- **Gospel:** Sun., 8 a.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun., 9:30 a.m.

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- **Catholic:** Sun., noon
- **Contemporary:** Fri., 7 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m.
- **High school senior service:** Sat. 6 p.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

- **Catholic:** Sun., 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 3; Sun., 11:30 a.m., Reconciliation, Chapel 3; Sun., 12:30 p.m., Mass, Chapel 3; Sun., 5 p.m., Mass, Chapel 2; Daily Mass, Mon.-Fri., noon, Chapel 2
- **Contemporary:** Kadena High School; Sun., 10:30 a.m.
- **Gospel:** Chapel 3; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m., Bldg. 856
- **Inspirational:** Chapel 2; Sun., 8:30 a.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun., 10:30 a.m.
- **Traditional:** Chapel 2; Sun., 10:30 a.m.
- **Wiccan/Pagan:** Fri., 7 p.m., Bldg. 856; Sat., 6:30 p.m., Bldg. 856

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- **Catholic:** Sun., 10 a.m., E. Chapel
- **Protestant:** Sun., 11 a.m., W. Chapel

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- **Catholic:** Sun., 8 a.m., Lester Chapel
- **Tues., Thurs., Liturgy of the Word** 7:15 a.m.
- **Non-Denominational:** Sun., 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel; Sun., 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

CAMP McTUREOUS | 622-9350

- **Gospel:** Sun., 12:30 p.m.
- **Lutheran:** Sun., 9:30 a.m.
- **Protestant Lethurgical:** Sun., 6:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AUTOMOBILES

'96 TOYOTA CRESTA
JCI July 2011,
\$2,800
(090)4470-1760

'98 TOYOTA RAUM
JCI June 2011,
\$2,200, OBO
(080)3605-8891

'92 MITSUBISHI PAJERO
JCI Dec 2010,
\$3,000, OBO
(080)1534-8713

'07 JEEP GRAND
CHEROKEE
JCI Jul 2011,
\$20,000
(090)6856-2006

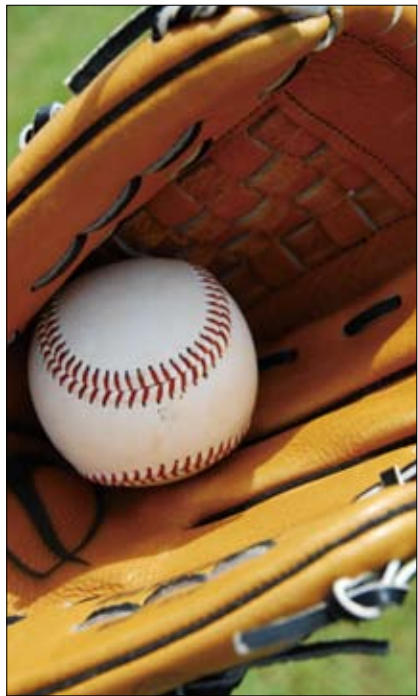
MISCELLANEOUS

ESP ALEXI LAIHO
ARROWHEAD GUITAR
\$2,250
(090)9787-7953
or 637-3769

ENGL POWERBALL
GUITAR AMP, 4X12 CAB
\$3,000
(090)9787-7953
or 637-3769

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During the Major League Baseball clinic, the students learned how to properly hold a baseball inside a glove.



Justin A. Hoffman, left, 15, catches a pitch from fellow high school teammate Cristian Rivera, right, 15, at the Major League Baseball Clinic held by Marine Corps Community Services, at Camp Foster, July 20. The Major League Baseball Clinic was a two-day annual event for military family members.



During the Major League Baseball clinic, students were taught the proper gripping techniques of a baseball.

AN ALL-AMERICAN SPORT ON OKINAWA

Coach tours Asia-Pacific region sharing tips, tricks with military family members

Story by Pfc. Jovane M. Holland

Photos by Pfc. Dengrier M. Baez

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Eager young baseball players overtook Field Two during a Major League Baseball Clinic geared toward military family members July 20-21 on Camp Foster.

The annual clinic, hosted by the Marine Corps Community Service's Children, Youth and Teen Program, is free of charge and expands on the fundamentals of baseball while teaching drills and techniques to children ages 5-18.

"The kids were able to develop and practice basic stretching, hitting, pitching and fielding skills from an experienced player.

"We're glad we could put on this program for them," Herbert Gray, program youth director.

The two-day clinic was taught by David Palese, a College of New Jersey baseball coach and an international envoy coach for the major leagues.

Palese has been working with MLB since 2002.

His experience involves developing play-



Mitchell Popielec, 13, plays for one of the Marine Corps Community Services youth baseball teams, practices correct throwing techniques at a baseball clinic held by MCCS, at Camp Foster, July 21. The annual clinic is free of charge and hosted by MCCS's Children, Youth and Teen Program and designed to accommodate children ages 5-18.

ers and coaches with instructional advice and raising the level of baseball awareness in several countries, including Vietnam, India, Japan and England.

He said this was a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the participants.

"Military kids overseas have a lot to deal with, being away from home and parents deploying,"

Palese said. "It's just great to give them a piece of home and hone their baseball skills in the process."

Palese passed the time joking with the

participants, giving tips, conducting drills and enhancing techniques.

Meanwhile, proud parents observed from the sidelines.

"What a service," said Susan Paul, a mother of two boys participating in the event. "There is so much time and energy that went into making this event a success. It really shows social concern for these young players who want to broaden their skills."

Paul said she also appreciated Palese's coaching style.

"I was very impressed with how thorough Coach Palese was while describing and demonstrating the different techniques and drills to the kids.

"My kids absolutely loved it. They can't wait to come back again next year," Paul said.

Many of the other baseball players shared the same sentiment.

"The clinic was fun and Coach Palese was friendly. He's a really cool guy," said Cristian Rivera, a student at Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster. "I'm definitely coming back next year."

Palese said he enjoyed coaching at the clinic and hopes to return next year.